

1.
My hearers,

The design of our meeting this day, is very pleasing & ought to be greatly interesting to every one.

We are convened, to hear that choir of singers, exhibit the improvement which they have made in the science of psalmody, & to give our approbation, in a pursuit so laudable.

The science of music is a subject of so great importance, that it ought to attract the attention of all, especially those who have a talent for singing.

The use & benefit of vocal & instrumental music, may be learned from the scriptures, by example & precept.

your attention, therefore, will
be requested, whilst I refer you
to the Bible, for proof of the as-
sertion.

3845 years before Christ, we have
an account of one who invent-
ed music. Gen. 4.21. Jubal was
the father of all such as handle
the harp and organ; the mean-
ing is, he was the inventor of
music & musical instruments.

Laban, the Syrian, complained
because he had not an oppor-
tunity, to send away Jacob &
his wives, with tabret, minth &
with songs, with tabret & with
pipe.

When the children of Israel
were emancipated from Egypt,

Moses upon the banks of the red sea,
chanter the high praises of Je-
hovah, their deliverer.

And Miriam the prophetess
took a timbrel in her hand,
& all the women went out after
her with timbrels.

And Miriam answered them;
sing ye to the Lord; for, he hath
triumphed gloriously; the horse
& the rider hath he thrown into
the sea.

For an ornament & for decoration,
there was a vast number of musicians
at the temple of Solomon. 2. Chron. 5.

And it came to pass, when the
priests came out of the holy place,
for all the priests, that were present
were sanctified, & did not then
wait by course.

Also the Levites, which were
the singers, all of them of Asaph,
of Heman, of Jeduthan with
their sons & their brethren be-
ing arrayed in white linen,
bearing cymbals & psalters &
harpes stand at the east end of
the ~~gate~~ altar, & with them are
120 priests, sounding with
trumpets.

It came even so pass, as the
trumpeters & singers were as one,
to make one sound, to be heard
in thanking & praising the Lord;
& when they lifted up their voices
with their trumpets & cymbals
& instruments of music & prais-
ed the Lord, saying; for he is
good; for his mercy endureth
for ever.

Josephus in history of the temple,
saith, there were made 10,000
sacerdotal garments of fine
linnen, with purple girdles; for
every priest 200, and trumpets,
according to the command of
Moses.

Also 200,000 garments of fine
linnen for the singers that were
levites.

And he made musical in-
struments, & such as were in-
vented for singing of hymns,
which were made of electrum
(the finest brass) 40,000.

The examples & precepts of
David, will furnish us with suf-
ficient proof, that music is of
great use in the worship of God.

On this wise be repeatedly sung
to the Lord.

The Psalmist knowing God to
be an object worthy of praise
called upon things animate & inan-
imate to praise him for his
wonderful works & mighty acts.

Therefore, music held a very
important place in the pleasing
service

as an aid therefore, here his ex-
hortations at the close of his Ps.

Praise the Lord with the sound
of the trumpet; praise him
with the psaltery & harp.

Praise him with the most
timbral; praise ^{him} with the
stringed instruments and
organs.

Praise him upon the land
cymbals; praise him upon the
high sounding cymbals.

I can refer you to some passages
of scripture, where music was
forbidden when it was employ-
ed in the service of the wicked
one; but I pass to notice the
command of the apostles.

The apostle Paul when writing
to his brethren at Ephesus, ex-
c^{them}horts, as follows; Speaking
to yourselves in psalms and
hymns & spiritual songs and
making melody in your hearts
unto the Lord. Eph. 5-19.

The apostle James saith; Is
any merry let him sing psalms.

James, 5:13

Jesus the Saviour of his people
sang a hymn with his disciples
at the institution of the supper.

I am conscious that the above
references to scripture, will
justify the use of music in the
service of God.

Again,

The use of it may be traced from
the common practice in almost
all christian churches, both in
ancient & modern times -

It is justifiable also from the
consideration that men eminent
for talents & piety have devoted
a part of their time to the
study of music -

The design of music now de-
mands our attention.

Church music, is an expression
of inward peace, arising from
a sense of God's goodness.

Then, Moses sung the high praises
of God on the banks of the red
sea for his special goodness in
delivering his people from
Egyptian tyranny.

Deborah & Barak united in a
song of praise to God when Jo-
rael was delivered from Jabin
and Sisera.

Prasable the singers at the Temple
of Solomon, praised God for his
wise instructions & protecting
goodness, while they were build-
ing so famous a house for the glo-
ry of his great name.

David praised God for the per-
fections of his nature; for his
wonderful works & mighty acts
& for all the blessings bestowed
on him and his people.

Musica will save us in time of
trouble.

Paul was troubled with an ~~evil~~
evil spirit from the Lord;
he requested David the son of
Jesse to stand before him be-
cause he had found favour
with God; he complied with his
request and the evil spirit de-
parted. 1 Sam. 16-23

And it came to pass when
the evil spirit from God was
upon Saul, that David took an
harp & played with his hand;
so Saul was refreshed & was well
& the evil spirit departed from him.

Singing has sometimes a very powerful effect upon us in all kinds of trouble, it relieves our minds from perplexity & our enjoyment is exceeding great, but I shall speak more upon this hereafter.

I shall now notice ^{more} particularly the use of music in the public worship of God.

1. There is more spirit & engagedness among the people.

Where there is no singing in the house of worship for months & years, something is wanting; stupidity & inattentions are prevalent, a deathlike spirit pervades the assembly; darkness spreads her terrific wings & the evils are incalculable great—

But where there is a well
regulated number of singers
who steadily assemble at the
place of worship, by the blessing
of God stupidity & inattention
are driven from the assembly,
darkness will vanish & an adoring
crowd is filled, - society is en-
riched & many evils removed.

2. More people will assemble
for worship.

There is something very alluring
(and attracting in music, it catches
the attention of nearly all.

Some will venture over the threshold
of the sanctuary for no
other reason, than to hear those
who unite in songs of praise.

Occasionally one will attend pub-
lic worship as assistance to the choir;
whenever if there are none they will keep
a choir.

House & society is an increase which
is an honour to any people,
for they appear more respect-
able.

3. Public worship is more agree-
able & profitable to those
who attend.

Such are our dispositions that
we cleave to the world & have
riches, honours & pleasure
for the object of our pursuit;
but when in the house of wor-
ship, hearing the high praises
of God exalted, we may forget
worldly things & our attention di-
rected to a subject of the greatest
importance.

Again, we are frequently called
to mourning & our troubles are
inexpressible great; but they will
be more light while hearing the
voice of praise.

Furthermore, when God is glorified with anthems of praise, the
memory of the event may forget
worldly things; manna for friends,
for a moment, may lose their
charms; the dissipated sinner and
slandered may look to God for
pardon & forget the things behind;
the tempted saint may resist
the adversary & Satan flee from
him & the house of God become
a paradise; and all the true
servants of God may be so filled
with raptures & have such tran-
sients of joy, that heaven will
be begun below & they exclaim
This is none other than the house
of God and the very gate of heaven.
My willing wand stay
In such a place as this
And sit & sing herself away
To everlasting bliss.

4. The public ~~the~~ servants of
God are greatly assisted in their
arduous work by the help of music.

They in common with all other
saints have disconsolate hours &
melancholly feelings, to enter
the house of worship in this situation,
they need something to relieve their
humours, to unite in songs of praise
frequently is a relief.

Again the work of the ministry
requires much strength of body &
the health of those who preach, is
greatly exposed, hence they are
liable to become infirm & have
many complaints.

To enter the house of God in this
condition, without any assistance
is very unpleasant, greatly dis-
tressing & disheartening to that
degree that he asks, "Who is suf-
ficient for these things."

But when for his assistance he
has a well regulated choir of singers,
his Amen he carries light, he dis-
charges the functions of the ministry
with increasing satisfaction.

Permit me now to address 1. the
choir who have attended to the holy
art of psalmody & 2. the society in
general.

My dear & affectionate Friends,
With sensations of pleasure I ad-
dress you on this joyful occasion.
You have for the season past been
furnished with an instructor
in music.

Viewing every circumstance of
your school there has been great
proficiency.

What could you have done a
few weeks ago in days of peace,
I forbear to mention.

as our purpose here this day is
interesting, we are pleased with the
exhibitions, for which I offer
to you my warmest thanks.

You learn from my remarks
that much depends on your ex-
ertion relative to the state of so-
ciety.

1. You may give spirit & engaged-
ness among those who attend
public exercises. Ye are surely you
are the ornaments of society.

2. By your exertions there will be
an increasing assembly, & occa-
sionally you will receive assistance
& encouragement from them
around you.

3. It is again that can give much
pleasure to the different char-
acters who attend the public in-
structions of Gæbe were

By your perseverance the
very place where we now
are will be rendered agreeable.

4. From you, your servant
for Jesus sake, will derive the
greatest profit; particularly
in his public administrations

My friends, view my present
situation, witness my general
duties & amercations.

Lectures ought not to be neg-
lected; the sick should be vis-
ited; funerals must be attended;

It is highly necessary that much
^{time} should be employed for a pre-
paration for the Sabbath;

also I am pestered with a slender
constitution, which very sensibly
affects my lungs in all public
performances; therefore, I need
much assistance, will you ~~afford~~
afford it.

Can a few hours of time be
better employed on the sabbath,
than assembling for public
worship.

I therefore, as your friend & ser-
vant invite you to frequent
these seats

My affections are peculiarly attached
to a choir of singers, they are near &
dear to me. The reflection is un-
pleasant that I am separated from them
I write you I expect you to persevere
in your laudable pursuit.

Let nothing small influence you
to forsake each other's society; ~~culture~~
Cultivate love, seek for happiness &
prosperity.

Strive to be useful, that you may
be called Blessing.

It is desirable that there may be
an increasing zeal in the study
of music, that these around you
& the rising generations may
catch your spirit, that you may
be able to perform in a superb
style; that we may hereafter hear
from you a funeral dirge & occasion-
ally anthems of praise.

In so doing the hearts of this people
will be made to rejoice & you will
receive their thanks.

My friends, I wish you well for
time & eternity.

O that the Lord would prosper &
bless you.

It is desirous, that you may so
live & that your conduct may
be such, that when you have
finished your earthly course,
God may receive you to mansions
of glory, where you can join the
heavenly choir; forever to unite in
anthems of praise to Father, Son
& Holy Ghost.

I shall do violence to my feelings
if I do not offer a tribute of ~~gratitude~~
thanks to the instructor of music in this
place.

You Sir, hold a very conspicuous ^{place}
in my affections

your animated diligence the
past winter proves your zeal will
for the increase of church music
among this people.

O may the Lord bless you & the
people to which you belong—

Brethren & friends of this assembly.
I do not apprehend that the exhi-
bition of music this day, is to excel
all other singing societies, or indeed any
among us; but to shew that there
are some capable of improvement,
& that they have talents for psalm-
ody, if properly managed and
sufficient encouragement given.
That choir prove the fact to every
earliest person.

From the proficiency which they
have made, we may take encourage-
ment to lend our assistance in the
good cause which they are pursuing.

In view of church music we have
been shrouded in darkness; but
the veil is in some degree ^{is} now rent;
it would were highly satisfactory
to have it wholly rent asunder.

We all know from experience how unpleasant it is to worship God publicly, without songs of praise.

Probably, again, a preacher, feels more sensibly the want of church music than his hearers; for reasons already mentioned in some former remarks.

Therefore as you regard his health & your own comfort & prosperity, use your efforts to continue it in this society.

My hearers with you will hail this happy day, may it long be remembered, with sensations of gratitude to our gracious Benefactor. To close this short address, permit me, as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, to solicit your attendance in the public worship of God.

Now cheering the thought, that we
may in future be entertained
with songs of praise to almighty
God

Let us then with our voices endeavor
also to cultivate our hearts.

Let us strive to imitate the heavenly
company in purity of feeling, as well
as harmony of sound; that in the
closing scene of time we may be
found among the ransomed of
the Lord, who shall return & come
to Zion with songs & everlasting joy
upon their cheeks; who shall obtain
joy & gladness & sorrow & sighing
shall flee away.

Thus we may in Heaven's unmeas-
ured space, chant Hallelujahs to him
who sitteth upon the throne & to the
Lamb forever & ever - Amen

Behindal before the singing society Brookfield
March 24 - 1824